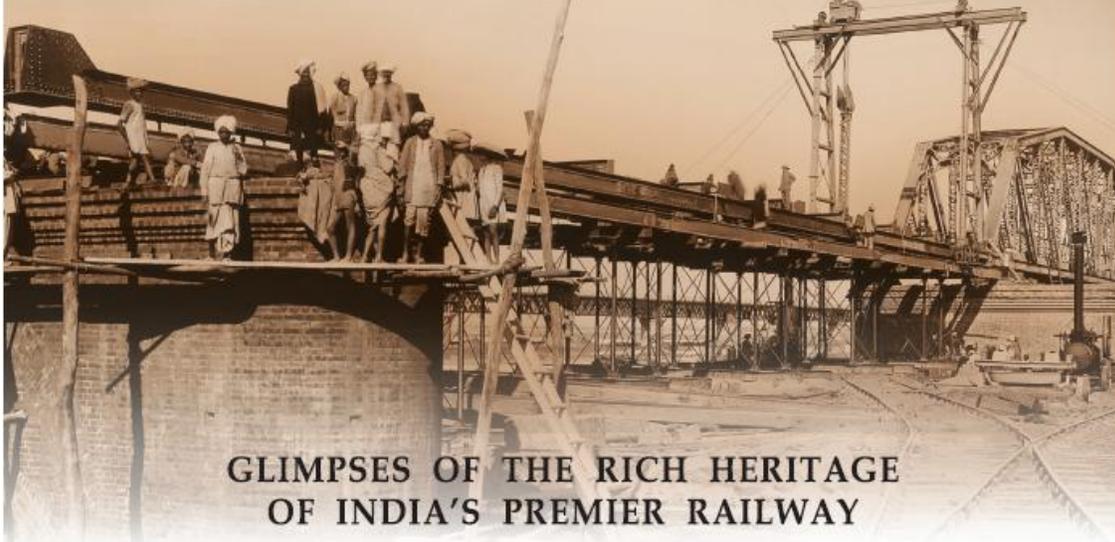


BRIDGES, BUILDINGS & BLACK BEAUTIES OF NORTHERN RAILWAY



GLIMPSES OF THE RICH HERITAGE OF INDIA'S PREMIER RAILWAY

India has a total of 27 UNESCO recognised World Heritage Sites. Indian Railways has the unique distinction of owning and operating two of these sites. These are the 'Mountain Railways of India' and the 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus' (formerly Victoria Terminus Station) in Mumbai. The Kalka – Shimla Narrow Gauge Line of Northern Railway was also included and inscribed as a part of the 'Mountain Railways of India' in 2008.

The recognition of these sites has helped Indian Railways realise its rich heritage. There is a growing awareness of the need to preserve it and this book is a step towards focussing on this objective. The book provides glimpses of the history and heritage of the buildings, bridges and steam locomotives of Northern Railway, one of the largest Zones of the Indian Railway system. It covers the growth and development of the system from its beginnings till recent times and provides interesting accounts of some of the extraordinary challenges faced by railwaymen and women during their careers. A rare collection of old maps and photographs enriches the book and gives it a unique flavour.



Work in progress at Yamuna Bridge, Delhi



Meerakotta Station

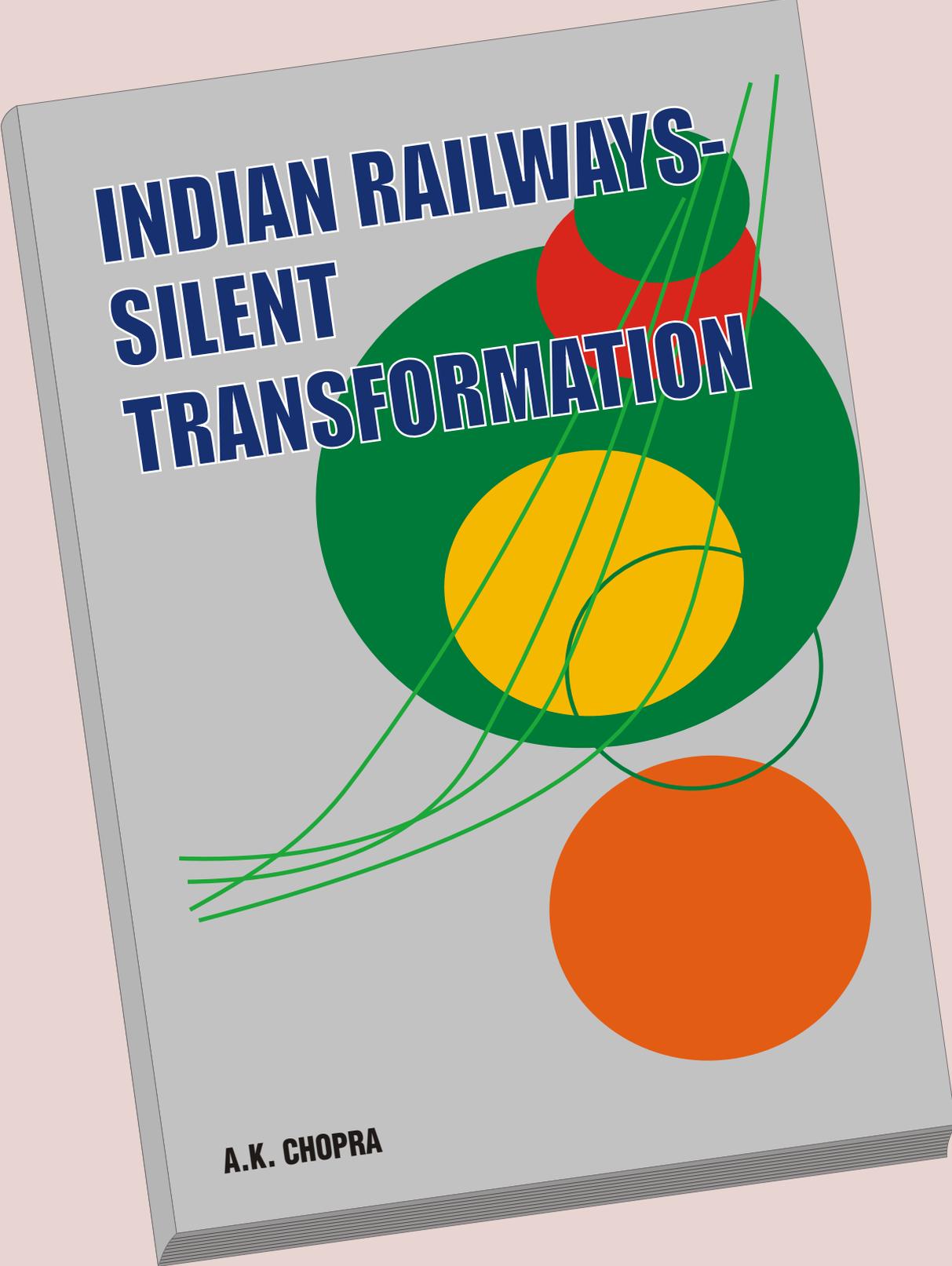


WG Locomotives

Author - Vinoo Mathur

Vinoo Mathur joined the Indian Railways Traffic Service in 1971. He has had a distinguished career in the Railways in various capacities and in different parts of the country. He has worked as Divisional Railway Manager in one of India's busiest Railway Divisions at Dhanbad, on the faculty of the Railway Staff College at Vadodara, as Secretary to the Railway Board and the General Manager of Northern Railway. He has considerable overseas experience and has been adviser to the Iraqi, Mozambique and Jordanian Railways. He is currently Member Traffic of the Railway Board.

Published by Institute of Rail Transport, Room No 17, Rail Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001, India



INDIAN RAILWAYS- SILENT TRANSFORMATION

A.K. CHOPRA

INSTITUTE OF RAIL TRANSPORT



INDIAN RAILWAYS – SILENT TRANSFORMATION

By

A. K. CHOPRA

IRSSE

Former Managing Director, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd., and
General Manager (Retd.) Indian Railways

This publication is unique and perhaps the first of its kind and it takes a macro view of safety on the Indian Railways as against exploring a cause and effect relationship involved in a micro approach to accidents. It systematically develops the theme that to minimise the incidences of rail disasters big or small, and to reach a level of zero accidents as in the most developed countries in the world, a progressive reduction in the extent of human involvement in train operations is an inevitable necessity. To achieve this, the publication lays great stress on adoption of advanced technologies in all the four important areas of activity, namely construction, operation, maintenance and regulation. To develop this central theme the publication makes a comprehensive examination of rail transport policy in India with special emphasis on safety related investments as also a proper and maximum use of information technology in areas of signaling, telecommunications, optimum use of rolling stock in order to make planned railway investment much more effective. It explores the development of the Indian Railways and how the various recommendations of Accident Committees and inventions in Railway Signaling and Telecommunication have improved the Safety of train operations since the inception of the railway system.

The publication contains numerous actual examples of accidents which have happened and incidents which could have caused accidents but were prevented by the timely and effective action by the railway staff. It focuses on the conditions under which the railway staff work to maintain punctuality with the old system of train operations, which is highly prone to human failures. The author has convincingly brought out the need of modernisation of the railway system through introduction of various cost effective technologies in Signaling and Telecommunications to take Indian Railways closer to being an accident free organisation.

The various technologies developed all over the world to improve safety in train operations have been explained at length and their induction in Indian Railways. Indian Railways have made efforts to induct these technologies and also to develop few indigenously, yet they have not been introduced as a planned strategy to improve the safety of train operations. The management focus has by and large remained on traditional methods of dependence on human aspects, which cannot be sustained for all times.

Modernisation of the railway system through new technological inputs not only reduces the scope of accidents but also enhances the line capacity of the existing track sections by four to seven times at much more economical costs, as expatiated in the publication. Technologies making uneconomic branch lines into viable profit centers have also been deliberated upon in the publication.

The publication appries the railway men, planners and public, the potential available within the country to make the Indian Railway system more vibrant, safe, by generation of sufficient line capacity in all busy sections to enable Indian Railways to carry all the offered passenger and freight traffic. It also fully considers various aids to the running staff, operation staff as well as public to reduce distress in case of emergencies, especially during accidents.

The efforts and the experience of Indian Railways for modernization are unique and beneficial not only within India but to other railway systems as well, especially developing railways. This publication is a must for them.

About the Author

Shri A.K. Chopra entered the Indian Railways Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE) in the year 1965 and worked for 38 years in the Railways. In his service, he got 31 postings in both major and minor cities of the country; Railway Headquarters, Railway Board; deputation to Public Sector Undertakings like RITES, IRCON, RailTel etc. He had also held foreign assignments of project work in developing countries. His last assignment on Indian Railways was as General Manager and retired from the post of Managing Director, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking set up by the Indian Railways. His vast experience and extensive involvement in railway operations has been effectively reflected in this publication.

For more information and your requirement of this publication, please contact:

The Manager, Institute of Rail Transport
17, Rail Bhavan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001
Phone: 91-11-23384171, 23384362, 23303924
Fax: 91-11-23384005 Email: irt@nde.vsnl.net.in

Price: Rs.750/- US\$ 25
Packing & Forwarding charges will be extra.